

October 27, 2011

Sue O'Connell
Legislative Services Division

To: The Children, Families, Health, and Human Services Interim Committee

Ideas to end childhood hunger through education, job training, and outreach a service that leads to employment with an emphasis on Indian Country (highest poverty rate) with funding sources and changes that can make a difference.

The Holes in the System:

- HRDC's believe they are the only effective delivery system;
- Lack of Legislative mandates instructing the State agencies to coordinate, work together,
- A System that does not allow for "SAFE" feedback or changes because of territorial issues with ties to DPHHS.

Suggestions:

- Review the CSBG budgets closely (travel included) and make a provision in the CSBG funds that HRDC's receive that is a mandate to provide 10% of their funding to Food Bank in their SDA area and plans, and a 5% set aside to coordinate outreach services.
 1. Review the legislation and change the Community Actions Program (CAP) designation to include language that includes Community Based Organizations (CBO) providing employment & training to people in poverty.
 2. The delivery system in Indian Country could be 50% set aside of the CSBG funds through a Request for Proposal Process.
 3. Mandate a MOU through the Request for Proposal, which spells out what partnerships required within the counties being proposed with Tribes, CBO's, educational institutions, county officials etc.
- Revenue Source: Utilize the TANF dollars of DPHHS to coordinate services for the poor—list the priorities from community efforts in each region by having community meetings of all service delivery contractors, food banks, community action agencies, etc.
- Revenue Source: Use the taxes not collected for out-of-state residents Capital Gains on Montana real estate deals directly at the "closing of real estate transactions" so there is no problem with collections. A box is checked by the Title Company and check issued directly to Montana Department of Revenue. The seller can then file for a refund of what portion they do not owe taxes upon, if there is any.
- Provide OUTREACH Training in OSHA Disaster Response Training & Certifications and Refresher courses; MDT/LTAP/MACO Flagging Certification courses & USDA Firefighting Red Card Certifications. Require DPHHS & MSU Extension Service in partnership with HRDC's to provide weatherization TA & energy audit trainings on Montana Indian Reservations. This will enable Native Americans to secure work near their homes and provide economic development on the reservations.
- Work with R&R's for childcare to be available with nutrition and information during training courses free of charge—children & parents both can eat.

Revenue: Funds could come from FEMA, weatherization, State Fund accident reduction & safety dollars to pay for at least part of these trainings. College credit and Indian counts for Tribal colleges should be a consideration to enhance the

benefits of training. (Resources: Steve Jenkins, MDT thru MSU-LTAP, Mike Roberty, MSU-Extension Service, Montana Contractor's Association-Safety Division, Teresa Wall-McDonald, CSKT and TERO offices, Barbara Stiffarm, Opportunity Link w/energy, bio-fuel & OSHA related occupations.)

- **COORDINATION OF VOLUNTEER WORK AT FISH, WILDLIFE & PARKS**

1. Reward volunteer work in our State Park System with food resources by people living in poverty----part could be done by Food Stamp (SNAP) recipients or just plain public that need food.

- **FEMA REQUIREMENTS FOR HIRING**

- Change State policy to include a requirement by FEMA to hire the Montana OSHA Disaster Certified community members especially Native Americans, on reservations, prior to bringing OSHA certified people from other locations out-of-state.
- **CHANGE THE RULES FOR PROGRAMS SERVING POOR AT DPHHS**
- Mandate MT Public Health & Human Services to provide nutrition training for OPA applicants/recipients & WoRC participants and their children during application and training at the agencies even prior to being eligible for TANF or SNAP services, and certainly after being determined eligible. They are hungry when they apply but no one seems to address that fact—even offer a grocery voucher for \$25 & immediate food.
- Mandate MT Public Health & Human Services under their Family Economic Security (FES) funding to provide food and nutrition for their participants during training sessions with funding to the operators for the training.
- Mandate MT Public Health & Human Services to coordinate with school districts and community transportation systems to provide tickets/coupons for redemption during their departures for sack lunches, snacks, granola bars, dried fruit, etc. (Weekends cause great anxiety for school children so if food can be provided on Fridays it would help them. Families during the end of the month run out of food. Even providing some commodities at the month's end like milk, bread, eggs, cheese, cereal, jerky and dried fruit could make a huge difference in childhood hunger.) Resources: Minkie Medora, MT Food Bank Network, Barbara Stiffarm-Opportunity Link, George Kipp-Blackfeet, Elaine TopSky-Rocky Boy & Bum Stiffarm-Fort Belknap, Arlene Templar, CSKT & other Montana Tribes.---Lots of models in the nation.

WIA YOUTH PROGRAM-WORK THAT BENEFITS THE STATE OF MONTANA PARK SYSTEM & PROMOTES YOUTH EDUCATION ADVANCEMENT

- Instruct Dept of Labor and Industry and Dept of Public Health & Human Services to place WIA youth in worksites that benefit the State of Montana, like Fish, Wildlife & Parks and mandate that the HRDC's are required to establish articulation agreements with education for work duties to enable youth to receive high school or college-credit for the work performed. (We all know education leads children out of poverty.)
- Recruit retired teachers and educators to coordinate services without affecting their teacher retirement. (They have the teaching skills, relate to diverse populations and understand the dynamics of education and businesses.)

Good luck to you. I appreciate the opportunity to respond to your work. Thank you.

Sincerely,


Ruby Eaglefeather, Flathead Lake, Montana